


28th July 2019 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França, Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

 Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

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THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França, which was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. **We are blessed by the presence of our dedicated English Mass priest: Father Bernardino Andrade.** He celebrates the only Mass in English on the island every Sunday morning here at the Chapel at 10h00.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Gen 18:20-32, Ps 137(138):1-8, Col 2:12-14, Lk 11:1-13)

After promising Abraham a son next year, God hesitates before revealing his plans for Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham urges God to be just to the threatened towns, where his nephew Lot lives. Later Lot defends his angelic guests from the depraved demands of the men of Sodom, and escapes before Sodom is destroyed. **The psalm** expresses heartfelt thanks to the Lord for his justice and love, confident in his continual help. Paul urges the Colossians, whom he has never visited, to be confident in their understanding of "God's mystery", Christ. As Gentiles they were seen as sinners, outside the Jewish Law. But now the Law is overridden, so, "buried in Christ", they should follow only Christ. For Paul, the list of our debts, owed to God for failing to carry out our duties under the covenant, is graphically nailed to the Cross and so destroyed. **Luke's** version of the Our Father is shorter and more abrupt than Matthew's. Both versions look to the end days, especially "Do not put us to the test". "Daily bread" may refer to the Eucharist. Or it may mean "tomorrow's bread" – the heavenly banquet, like the double portion of manna collected in the desert before the Sabbath. God promises to respond to all our requests, as he did to Abraham.

- Brought to you by: Chris Oliver (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE: On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC By:

Larysa Makarova (from the Ukraine)

Entry Hymn: "O Lord, my God, When I in awesome wonder..." - n. 419

Offertory Hymn: "In bread we bring you, Lord..." - n. 258

Communion Hymn: "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound..." - n. 32

Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

Final Hymn: "All over the world the Spirit is moving"- n. 19





TWO «INSANE» AND THREE «LOVING» SISTERS



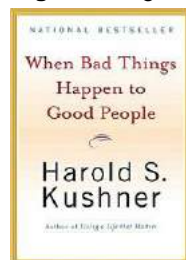
The 17th of March 2019 is a date that will never be forgotten in the life of Alina and her family.

A very young, skillful and successful Podiatrist, happily married, mother of two precious angels and the youngest of five brothers and sisters, Alina was diagnosed with a rare disease that I was not able to learn the name and the condition of. What I know is that, even if it is not considered cancer, she is receiving strong treatments of chemotherapy.

I remember, when she was a student of Podiatry, Alina volunteered many times to go to the streets, day or night, and to take care of the feet of the many pilgrims that were taking long walks on their way to Fatima, Portugal. When she was involved in that volunteer work I remember her mother telling me that *«wherever there was suffering, Alina was present»*. That has always been her way of being in this world.

Even if we try, we will never be able to meet her without that angelic and tender smile. Even when tears run down her face. Alina had to close her office and postpone her patient's appointments but we are all pretty sure that it will not be for long.

One of the things that amazed me most was when I saw her a few days ago, making a list of the wonderful things that were happening in her life, especially good things that would not have happened if it was not for her condition. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I was thinking about the name of a book with the title of *«When Bad Things Happen to Good People»*, by Harold S. Kushner. She told me that her first question was a normal question in a situation like this. **The question was «Why me?»** But immediately after that question she remembered the next question: *«Why not me?»* That's when Alina started telling the many good things that have been happening to her since all this journey started. It reminds me of a book with the title *«Turning your scars into stars»*, by Robert H. Schuller.



Well! We know that Alina will lose her hair. If it is not from her illness it will be from her chemo treatments. And we all know that losing hair is never a small detail in a woman's life. But she has two «insane» sisters and they decided to surprise her and the entire family. Before Alina's hair started falling out, her two sisters Ana and Cecilia decided to surprise her and the entire family and cut their own hair. Of course Alina cried of emotion and all the family was shocked. But those loving sisters look so cute and so much the same. Yes. I think it was their purpose. To combat her loneliness. To become one like her, facing the same questions, and the same

looks. And I believe that they succeeded. For us Christians we immediately identify that «giant step» with the «giant step» taken by God when He became one of us in Jesus Christ. Actually he never stops being one of us. That's why we will never be alone. Cecilia donated her beautiful hair to the Portuguese Institute of Oncology. I am very proud of my two «insane» and my three «loving» nieces Ana, Cecilia and Alina.



Ana

Cecília

Alina

«LOVERS ALWAYS LOOK INSANE FOR THE NON-LOVERS»

Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade

DISCOVERED IN GALILEE – Church built on homes of Apostles Peter & Andrew

Source: www.ucatholic.com/news/church-built-on-home-of-apostles-peter-and-andrew-discovered-in-bethsaida/

Archaeologists in Galilee have unearthed an ancient church said to be built on the home of the Apostles Peter and Andrew in Bethsaida. Excavating on the shore of Galilee, *Mordechai Aviam* of Kinneret Academic College in Israel, discovered a Byzantine-era church near the remains of a Roman settlement, confirming the

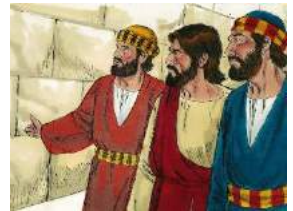


account of historian Flavius Josephus. The church also confirmed the account of Saint Willibald, who said a church had been built there on the home of Peter and Andrew.

"We excavated only one third of the church, a bit less, but we have a church and that's for sure. The plan is of a church, the dates are Byzantine, the mosaic floors are typical... chancel screens, everything that is typical of a church."

"It's the historical tradition we possess, and there is no good reason to question it. Between Capernaum and Kursi there is only one place where a church is described by the visitor in the eighth century and we discovered it - no other churches have been found between those two towns - so this is the one." *"It would be normal to find an inscription in a church of the*

Byzantine period, describing in whose memory it was built, for instance." Next for Aviam is to excavate the remaining 2/3s of the church and hopefully discover an inscription that would tell who it was built for to close the case for good.



Cross carved in stone found. Photo: Zachary Wong

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

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God loves us more than a father, mother, friend or anyone else could, even more than we are able to love ourselves.

– St. John Chrysostom

It's not about HOW MUCH you do, but HOW MUCH LOVE you put into what you do that counts.

– St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14).

People Helping People is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França to help those in need. Our former Bishop D. António once said, "One must find new ways of helping the poor". A very small group of people attending the English Mass decided to do just that after the floods in 2010! In a short period of time we created partnerships with supermarket chains and restaurants; we have paid dozens of medical prescriptions, we have spent gallons and gallons of petrol riding across the island giving lifts, we have prevented families from going hungry, getting their electricity cut off, running out of gas, losing their homes. **We have tried to keep them warm, keep them hopeful, and keep them dreaming...**

The Mission Statement of People Helping People is... through social solidarity, to mobilize many people to help many people in a combat against poverty, hunger, illness, exclusion, indifference, intolerance, and social injustice, with a special preference for the last, the least and the lost, having as a model the person of Jesus, the «Good Shepherd» (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 15). Our wish is that it may always be an open door when all the other doors close, building in this way, different feelings and acts of Mercy (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 6 and Matthew chapter 25).

>> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

EUROPE: Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.
Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

USA: Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 1-925-813-2888
Email: larryjanc@aol.com

>> BANK INFO FOR DONATIONS:

ACCOUNT NAME: *Associação Gente Ajudando Gente/PHP*

BANK: Banco Santander Totta **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 0003 4938 1759020

IBAN: PT50 0018 0003 49381759020 94 **SWIFT:** TOTAPTPL **NIB:** 0018 0003 49381759020 94

Bank Address: Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A, 9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal



Every Sunday morning at the door of the Chapel there will be a **basket to collect food for the poor**. You are welcome to bring any little thing to help alleviate their suffering. (Rice, pasta, milk, canned tuna, biscuits etc.) Thank you to all who have donated so far! ☺



MASS SCHEDULE:

Sundays:

10h00 English

11h30 Portuguese



Tea and Coffee

After Mass!!

in the Social Room
across the garden -
please join us!



"Cries of The Poor":

Msg received 25/06/2019 from Jorge:

"Please help, yesterday and today we didn't eat anything because we have no gas to cook."

Msg received 22/06/2019 from Carmen:

"Can you please help me. We have nothing to eat. Please can you help us with 2 pkts of spaghetti, 2 tins of sausages, 2 pkts of rice, 2 tins of tuna fish and 12 eggs and some bread and 3 litres of milk and some coffee..."

Newsletter from Madeira. Keep in touch! **This newsletter is brought to you every week by a team of volunteers:** Father Bernardino (who writes our Weekly Column: *From my Heart to your Heart*); Chris (*Scripture Readings*); Larysa and Sharon (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (*newsletter layout*). **The newsletters are printed by Cartridge World Funchal**, in Rua Elias Garcia, nr 5. We can email this newsletter to you every week. If you would like to receive it by email every Sunday, just email the word "Newsletter" to: penhafanca.newsletter@gmail.com or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ☺